

REMARKS

Following entry of this amendment, claims 1-6, 9-15, 26-28, 33-45, 50, 53, 59-66, 68, 71, 74-82, 84-93, 95, 98, 101-109 and 111-112 will remain pending in the application of which claims 1, 37, 59, 82, 86 and 109 are independent. Claims 1, 3-6, 9-14, 27-28, 33-39, 44, 50, 59-61, 64-66, 74-79, 82, 84-88, 90-93, 101-106, 109 and 111-112 have been amended herein. Claims 7-8, 72-73 and 99-100 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 16-25, 29-32, 46-49, 51-52, 54-58, 67, 69-70, 83, 94, 96-97 and 110 were previously canceled. No claims have been added herein.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1-15, 19-20, 26-28, 33-35, 37-38, 40-45, 50, 53, 59-60, 62-66, 71-82, 84, 86, 87, 89-93, 95, 98-109 and 111 were rejected as being unpatentable over Wicks et al (United States Patent No. 5,796,394, hereafter “Wicks”) in view of Clifton-Bligh et al (United States Patent No. 6,775,659, hereafter “Clifton”).

Claims 36, 61, 68, 85, 88 and 112 were rejected as being unpatentable over Wicks in view of Clifton in further view of Scott (United States Patent No. 5,543,818, hereafter “Scott”).

Claims 7-8, 72-73 and 99-100 have been canceled herein and the rejections of those claims is therefore moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the remaining rejections in light of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Summary of Wicks

Wicks et al discusses a communications routing system. A base station which is connected to a display is connected to multiple types of devices in a Local Area Network or other type of network. The base station is equipped with a keypad input device similar to those found on standard telephones. The base station receives transmissions intended for the various

types of device in the LAN from multiple types of exterior networks having different data formats. Exemplary types of exterior networks include computer networks, telephone networks and paging networks (see Fig. 1 and discussion thereon). The base station filters and routes this information to the various devices and provides a common interface for the retrieval of the information. The purpose of the system in Wicks is to provide a common interface for information retrieval for different types of devices on the local network which are receiving information in their specific data formats. All communications to the office devices go through the base station (column 2, lines 40-41).

The intercepted information may be retrieved by a user of the Wicks system via the keypad-like input device embedded in the base station. The base station generates a display of icons approximately arranged on the display in an orientation similar to that of the keypad. Actions are taken in response to a user pushing one of the buttons on the keypad corresponding to an icon on the display. Alternatively, the information may be retrieved by docking a handheld communicator to a docking station attached to one of the devices which is interfaced with the base station over the LAN. The handheld communicator has a numeric keypad and a unique user ID. The device to which the handheld communicator is docked may or may not have a display. The handheld communicator may or may not have a display. Once docked at a particular device in the LAN, information intended for that device may be sent to the device via the handheld communicator.

Summary of Clifton-Bligh

Clifton discusses a system used to map and visually depict interconnections between multiple data files such as files accessed via the world wide web (see Abstract). The Clifton system aims to provide a method for mapping logical relationships between data files which can be used in conjunction with a display device having limited resolution. The system also seeks to provide devices which allow the display and/or navigation of the interconnections and to provide a mechanism allowing users to gain an impression of the significance of a given file before opening the file (col. 5, lines 10-22). Exemplary representations of these interconnections may be seen in Figures 1-8. In one embodiment, a mobile phone may be used to display the logical relationships (see Figs 9-12 and related description).

Argument

Wicks in view of Clifton fails to disclose, teach or suggest all of the elements of Applicants' independent claims as amended.

Representative claim 1 as amended recites:

A mobile telephone apparatus, said mobile telephone apparatus comprising:
a display surface for displaying a first group of information in a visually partitioned manner, the visually partitioned information being presented on a designated area of the display surface in at least two regions;
a keypad containing keys, each of the keys corresponding to at most a single region of the at least two regions, wherein each region is associated with at least one of the keys in the keypad and represents a choice of an option that may be selected by selecting the associated key;
logic for triggering an event in response to a selection of the associated key, the triggering of the event resulting in the display of a second group of additional information retrieved from a remotely located web server, **the second group of additional information replacing the first group of information in the same designated area of the display surface and further being visually partitioned and presented on the display surface in at least two regions, each of the regions displaying the second group of additional information associated with at least one of the keys in the keypad;** and
a processor for executing the logic for triggering the event, the event triggered by the selection of the associated key.

Wicks in view of Clifton fail to disclose, teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 1 as amended. For example, Wicks in view of Clifton fail to disclose, teach or suggest at least *the second group of additional information replacing the first group of information in the same designated area of the display surface and further being visually partitioned and presented on the display surface in at least two regions, each of the regions displaying the second group of additional information associated with at least one of the keys in the keypad* as recited in the amended claim 1.

Applicants' claimed invention provides an approach for organizing information for display on portable devices such as cellular phones so as to provide a visually intuitive interface for assisting a user in interacting with the device. The visual display is particularly useful in navigating through hierarchical layers of content such as content available over the Internet (see for example, Applicants' specification, page 4, line 32 – page 5, line 2). A display surface is logically partitioned into visually delimited regions with each region being associated with keys or buttons on the device. The regions display information representing selection choices and when a key or button associated with choice is selected an event related to the choice is triggered. The triggering of the event results in a new display of additional information related to the selected choice. The additional information ***replaces the information previously displayed in the same area of the display surface*** (see for example, Applicants' specification, page 5, lines 3-11, Figures 8, 11A, 11B). The new information is also mapped to specific keys/buttons in the keypad. Wicks and Clifton fail to disclose, teach or suggest this functionality.

In the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged that Wicks failed to disclose “*the triggering of the event resulting in the display of additional information, the additional information having been retrieved from a remotely located web server, the additional information visually partitioned and presented on the display in at least two regions, each of the regions displaying the additional information associated with at least one of the keys in the keypad*” as previously recited in claim 1 (Office Action page 4), but suggested that Wicks disclosed all of the other elements of Applicants' claim 1 and that Clifton supplied the elements missing from Wicks. Applicants respectfully submit that if Wicks failed to disclose the elements of the previous version of claim 1 as acknowledged by the Examiner, it also fails to disclose the amended limitations of claim 1 recited above (Applicants also respectfully note the maintenance of their position respectfully disagreeing with the Examiner, for the reasons set forth in previous Responses, regarding the Examiner's position that Wicks discloses the remaining elements of claim 1). Clifton also fails to disclose the amended elements of claim 1.

Clifton fails to disclose, teach or suggest the intuitive interface claimed by Applicants for interacting with a device. Rather than displaying information in regions in a designated area where each key on the keypad is associated with at most a single region in the designated area

and then replacing the displayed information in response to a selection of one of the regions via the associated key with the display of additional information in the same designated area that is also mapped to the keys, Clifton discusses, at most, the use of multiple areas of the display without disclosing the display of additional information that replaces the original information in a designated area and without disclosing the mapping functionality claimed by Applicants (see for example, Clifton, Figures, 10a-j and 11a-e and related discussion). Clifton thus fails to disclose, teach or suggest the intuitive interface of Applicants' invention and more specifically fails to disclose, teach or suggest *the second group of additional information replacing the first group of information in the same designated area of the display surface and further being visually partitioned and presented on the display surface in at least two regions, each of the regions displaying the second group of additional information associated with at least one of the keys in the keypad* as recited in the amended claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 (and claims 2-6 and 9-15, 26-28, 33-36 which depend thereon) is requested.

The same reasoning as set forth above in regard to claim 1 is also applicable to the remaining independent claims. For example, independent claim 37 as amended recites "*logic for triggering an event in response to a selection of the associated key, **the triggering of the event resulting in the display of a second group of additional information retrieved from a remotely located web server, the second group of additional information replacing the first group of information in the same designated area of the display surface and further being visually partitioned and presented on the display in at least two regions, each of the regions displaying the second group of additional information associated with at least one of the keys in the keypad***". As noted above in the discussion of claim 1, Clifton and Wicks fail to disclose, teach or suggest this element.

Likewise, independent claim 59 as amended recites among other things:

...processing with a processor located in the portable electronic apparatus logic associated with the selection of the selected one of the keys, **the processing triggering an event that causes the display of a second group of additional information, the second group of additional information having been retrieved from a remotely located web server, the second group of additional**

information replacing the first group of information in the same designated area of the display surface and further being visually partitioned and presented on the display in regions, each of the regions displaying the second group of additional information associated with at least one of the keys in the keypad, the additional information concerning a service associated with the selected key.

As noted above during the discussion of claim 1, Wicks and Clifton fail to disclose, teach or suggest these elements.

Similarly, claim 82 as amended recites among other things: “*the processing triggering an event that causes the display of a second group of additional information, the second group of additional information having been retrieved from a remotely located web server, the second group of additional information replacing the first group of information in the same designated area of the display and further being visually partitioned and presented on the display in regions, each of the regions displaying the second group of additional information associated with at least one of the keys in the keypad, the second group of additional information concerning a service associated with the selected key.*” Applicants respectfully submit that the reasoning set forth for claim 1 above is also applicable to claim 82.

Independent claims 86 and 109 are medium claims substantially corresponding to independent method claims 59 and 82 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons the reconsideration and allowance of claims 37-45, 50, 53, 59-60, 62-66, 68, 71, 74-82, 84, 86-87, 89-93, 95, 98, 101-109 and 111 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 36, 61, 85, 88 and 112 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wicks in view Clifton in further view of Scott (U.S. Patent No. 5,5543,818). The Examiner cited Scott (page 10, Office Action) as teaching a cursor used to highlight regions and make visual selections. Scott however does not remedy the shortcomings of Wicks and Clifton with regard to Wicks’ and Clifton’s failure to disclose or suggest all of the elements of Applicants’ independent claims. Accordingly, the reconsideration and allowance of claims 36, 61, 85, 88 and 112 is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims in the pending application are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a teleconference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the Applicants' attorney at (617) 202-4617.

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. AVE-001CNRCE3. In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith, and the requisite petition does not accompany this response, the undersigned hereby petitions under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized to be charged to the aforementioned Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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